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MEDIA RELEASE

MALINAUSKAS GOVERNMENT'S NEW SA KNIFE CRIME LAWS WELCOMED BY SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

The shopping centre industry has welcomed the Malinauskas Government's new knife crime laws tabled in the Parliament today, as a further effective step to addressing the root problem of people, including repeat offenders, bringing dangerous weapons to public places, including shopping centres and other retail settings, with the intent to threaten, intimidate or cause serious harm.

The proposed laws will enable SA Police to use metal detecting wands to determine if a person is in possession of a dangerous weapon and will also create new offences in relation to the sale and supply of dangerous knives to minors, and certain knives needing to be properly secured in retail outlets.

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA) commends Premier Malinauskas and Attorney-General Kyam Maher, for their engagement with our industry on these important laws.

Angus Nardi, Chief Executive of the SCCA said: "Our industry commends Premier Malinauskas and Attorney-General Kyam Maher for introducing these tough new laws, and we appreciate the Government's engagement with us.

"A recent industry survey we conducted highlighted the key ongoing root problem of people bringing dangerous weapons to our shopping centres to engage in aggressive, violent and criminal behaviour," said Mr Nardi.

"Our recent industry survey also reiterated that further law reform, with an increased SA Police presence, is the most effective solution to address this community-wide problem.

"This is a community-wide problem, and as Premier Malinauskas and Attorney-General Maher have noted, this package is a step forward.

"Over the 2024 Christmas period, our industry ran a \$7 million campaign across our media screens calling on the community to *'Be Kind'* to workers in retail settings, including our security guards, cleaners, and pharmacy and retail workers.

"Our industry looks forward to continuing to work with the Government, SA Police, and the *Retail Crime Working Group* convened by the Government, on these important public policy issues, to ensure community safety at our shopping centres and other retail settings," Mr Nardi said.

The SCCA is the national industry group for major shopping centre owner and operators. This includes the owners and operators of major SA shopping centres.



CONTACT: Luke Sikora, Head of Stakeholder Engagement, SCCA, 0423 437 166

www.scca.org.au  @SCCA_Advocacy